



# Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

## DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014

### Technical Advisory Committee Representatives attending:

Mary Ellen Gray, Kent County Planning (Chair)

Dorothy Morris for David Edgell, Office of State Planning (Vice-chair)

Tim Riley, Kent Conservation District

Bill Cook for AM Townshend, City of Dover, Planning & Insp.

Rachel Yocum for Valerie Gray, DNREC

Cathy Smith, Delaware Transit Corporation

Milton Melendez, DE Dept. of Agriculture

Janet Vinc for Dave Hugg, Town of Smyrna

Michael Kirkpatrick, DelDOT Planning

Aaron Chaffinch, Town of Camden

Joe Zilcosky, DE Economic Dev. Office

### Technical Advisory Committee Representatives not attending:

Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern

City of Milford

Jason Halpin, Dover Air Force Base

Marc Dixon, Federal Highway Administration

Ryan Long, Federal Transit Admin.

Sharon Duca, City of Dover, Public Works

### Non-members attending:

Richard Duron, FHWA

Richard Vetter, MPO Staff

James Galvin, MPO Staff

Craig Anderson, DE State News

Kate Layton, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

- 1) **Introduction of Members & Guests**
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda***

MOTION By Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Riley. Motion carried.

- 4) ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2014 (enclosure)***

MOTION By Mr. Riley to approve the minutes of August 2014. Seconded by Ms. Morris. Motion carried.

- 5) ***ACTION ITEM: Annual Elections – MPO Staff***

Ms. Gray stepped down as Chair and MPO staff conducted the elections.

MOTION By Mr. Riley nominating Ms. Gray as Chair. Seconded by Mr. Chaffinch. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Chaffinch to close nominations. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Motion carried.

Ms. Gray was elected by acclamation.

MOTION By Mr. Chaffinch nominating Mr. Edgell as Vice Chair. Seconded by Ms. Gray. Motion carried.

MOTION By Mr. Chaffinch to close nominations. Seconded by Ms. Gray. Motion carried.

Mr. Edgell was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

- 6) **DISCUSSION ITEM: FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program update - Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reported that Council did not approve an FY2015-2018 TIP at the September meeting. The issues still being debated include the South Frederica grade-separated intersection and how Decision Lens was applied. This means that the FY2014-2017 TIP, which is still in place, will have to be amended before projects in DelDOT's FY2015-2018 STIP/CTP can move forward. He also noted that DelDOT is meeting with Kent County Levy Court and the Sports Complex developers to discuss a temporary entrance. MPO Council has asked DelDOT for a detailed presentation as to how Decision Lens works and



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was applied. TAC members discussed this project and potential problems for other projects in the future. It was noted that project will continue, and while there could be delays on Kent County projects, nothing will come to a complete halt.

### 7) **DISCUSSION ITEM: Draft FY2016-2021 Capital Transportation Program – Rich Vetter**

Mr. Vetter reported that this FY16-2021 draft CTP was presented at a public hearing in September. The one-page summary included in the attachments included only Kent County projects; red for construction, blue for design and green for right-of-way acquisition. The West Dover Connector and the Thompsonville grade-separated intersection are scheduled for construction in FY15. The US 13 widening project is scheduled for 3 years of design beginning in FY17, with construction beyond FY2021. Mr. Zilcosky asked why design would take 3 years; Mr. Vetter noted that, given the length of the roadway and number of properties involved, it would take that much time to get right-of-way in place after design was completed. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that DelDOT has done that in the past, acquired right-of-way, only to have the design change. They now try to avoid that. Mr. Galvin noted that the US13 widening project has different limits in the FY16 draft CTP than it had in the FY15 CTP. Originally it was to go from Puncheon Run to Walnut Shade Road; it is now scheduled to go from Puncheon Run to Lochmeath Way. There were questions as to whether or not this was a decrease in the limits or if the additional section would be another phase. Mr. Vetter noted that it would ultimately be two phases; Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that this was an HSIP project.

### 8) **DISCUSSION ITEM: City of Dover Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update – Rich Vetter (3 enclosures)**

Mr. Vetter reported that the Plan is about 90% complete. Ideas for projects include widening sidewalks, creating shared-use paths, adding shoulders, sidewalks and bike lanes where needed or where there is interest. The Plan will be presented at workshops in the next couple of months. Maintenance for the path in front of Kraft Foods was needed, and it was noted that 1/3 of US13 has no sidewalks. New trails have also been identified. DelDOT is in the process of prioritizing these projects. Mr. Vetter noted that the MPO used the criteria developed by WILMAPCO to evaluate 30 or so roads. Mr. Kirkpatrick said that it was better to fill in gaps for existing routes, and not create routes to nowhere. There was further discussion of proposed bicycle and pedestrian trails, particularly on Route 8 to the new Dover High School.

### 9) **Member Agency Reports:**

**Kent County Planning** – Ms. Gray reported that Delaware Population Consortium has teamed with the federal Census agency to provide free training at the Kent County Administration building on November 12.

#### **State of Delaware:**

**DEDO** – Mr. Zilcosky reported that Bayhealth/Kent General Hospital would be hiring 97 new employees, including 57 new nurses. Delaware State Optical will add 31 employees, and Energizer will also be hiring.

### 10) **Staff Report:**

#### **10.1 Outreach Activities – Kate Layton**

#### **10.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter (enclosures)**

Mr. Galvin reported that the Delaware/Maryland APA conference would be held October 28 and 29. The conference will be held in Newark. He noted that he is the professional development officer for the chapter, and if anyone was interested in AICP certification, they should contact him.

Ms. Layton reported that she was working on the newsletter for a November publication, and if anyone had any information to include to let her know. She was aware of the DTC “Stuff the bus” event. Ms. Layton noted that “Tropo,” the Air Quality Partnership mascot, will be going out to school programs to promote awareness concerning air quality, particularly how ozone affects those with asthma. Kent Kids is waiting on the status of a \$1,000 grant from Nemours Hospital for bike racks in downtown Dover. Mr. Kirkpatrick asked if “Tropo” speaks; Ms. Layton explained that he was a silent character, and that there would be a narrator for school programs.

Mr. Vetter reported that the questions the TAC had regarding the CMAQ funding had been answered by the time Council met in September, and Council approved DelDOT’s use of the funding.

### 11) **Next Meeting: December 10, 2014**

MOTION By Mr. Kirkpatrick to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Chaffinch. Motion carried.